(c) & (d) To one of the vacant seats on the Dharmapuri taluk board, M.R.Ry. K. Venkatraman Avargal, a member of the depressed classes, has been appointed.

Communal representation in Narayanadeverakeri union board.

* 285 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) how many Brahmans, non-Brahmans or Christians or Muhammadans or Adi-Dravidas were nominated to the Narayanadeverakeri union board, Hospet taluk, Bellary district, by the president of the Hospet taluk board ;

(b) when the nominations were made last ;

(c) whether it is a fact that one Adi-Dravida Mr. Kalli Hanumappa of Narayanadevarakeri has already applied to the president, taluk board, for one of the nominated seats ; if so, with what results ; and

(d) if the Government have no information with reference to clauses (a), (b) and (c), whether they will be pleased to call for the information ?

A.—(a) & (b) A list [a] of members of the Narayanadevarakeri union board with dates of joining it is laid on the table.

(c) The answer is in the affirmative ; the person named has been appointed as a member of the board.

Establishment of a free reading room at Tirupati.

* 286 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that after cancelling the Collector's order refusing to give sanction to the resolution regarding the establishment of a free reading room at Tirupati, the Government refused to give their sanction to the reading room ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the municipal council requested the Government to reconsider their order ;

(c) whether the municipal council again requested the Government to sanction at least the amount bona fide spent up to the time of refusal by the Government to sanction the reading room and the Government refused to do even this ;

(d) whether the audit department has now asked the councillors concerned to pay the sum spent for the reading room which is only Rs. 10-6-0 ;

(e) whether the municipal councillors have refused to do this and a suit is to be filed regarding the same ; and

(f) whether the Government have any objection to reconsider the matter at least now and sanction the petty sum spent by the municipality bona fide in view of the fact that the Government cancelled the Collector's order ?

A.—(a) The Collector did not refuse to sanction the expenditure. He suspended the resolution under section 36 (2) of the District Municipalities Act. Such suspension is proper only when the public interest is in immediate danger and was cancelled by the Government who at the same time informed the council that the Government's previous sanction was required before any money was spent under the resolution.

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on page 543 infra.

The council, however, spent money without waiting for sanction which, when eventually applied for, was refused.

(*b*) & (*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The amounts of items disallowed by the Examiner are Rs. 10-5-0 and Rs 17-5-7.

(*e*) The Government have no information.

(*f*) The Government are not prepared to sanction the expenditure.

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" May I know the circumstances under which Government cancelled the resolution of the Municipal Council ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Because the Government thought it was irregular for the council to pass the resolution."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Why are not Government prepared to sanction this expenditure ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" It is an expenditure which the local body is not bound to incur."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Is the maintenance of a reading room not a legitimate function of a local body ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Government do not think so."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Do Government think that it is illegitimate for a local body to maintain a reading room ? "

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" Are there not municipalities maintaining reading rooms ? "

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" Did not Government invite applications for contributions to reading rooms and libraries maintained by local bodies ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" It is a matter to be considered by a different department altogether."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Is it in the department of Education that such applications were invited and may I take it that Government in the Education Department will authorize this expenditure ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" We cannot authorize expenditure which is not sanctioned by the Legislature. There is no budget provision for this expenditure. The hon. Member probably refers to subsidies to properly constituted libraries. "

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Is it then a fact that while a particular activity of the local body will be described as illegitimate by one department of the Government, another department of the Government will call it legitimate ? "

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" By whom is the suit filed : is it filed with the permission of the Government ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" There is no suit ; it is only a case of surcharge. "

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Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Seeing that the municipality spent the money bona fide expecting that the Government which cancelled the Collector's order would sanction the expenditure, will the Government be pleased to reconsider the order and sanction the expenditure ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" The question before the Government was whether the expenditure was authorized or not ; Government came to the conclusion that it was not. "

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Cannot Government sanction expenditure even though it was not authorized ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Government can sanction if they think fit. "

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I ask why they should not sanction such an expenditure now ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" In this case they thought they had better not. "

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Are Government satisfied that the municipality incurred this expenditure bona fide thinking that the Government would sanction the expenditure ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" The question of bona fide does not at all arise. "

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—" Did Government consult the District Collector with regard to this matter of sanction ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" I do not think he was consulted. "

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Did the District Collector himself give any suggestion ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" I am not aware of any such thing. "

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Is it not a fact that the District Collector cancelled this because there was no provision in the budget and subject to the sanction of the Government the municipality can incur the expenditure ? "

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—" If the Government think that this is done bona fide, will they not be pleased to reconsider the matter ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" No, Sir. "

Audit objection to expenditure by the Tirupati Municipal Council on account of Mr. Gandhi.

*287 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Municipal Council of Tirupati resolved to send a wire to Mrs. Gandhi on the recovery of Mahatma Gandhi from serious illness and to spend some sugarcandy in a spinning competition and these expenses came to Rs. 5-8-0 and Rs. 8-11-0 respectively ;

(b) whether the Assistant Examiner of Local Fund Accounts has objected to these items and the council has replied that these came under ordinary expenditure ; and